

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-42 are pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-42. Applicant has amended claims 1, 25-28, and 31. Applicant has added new claims 43-48. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of pending claims 1-48.

The Examiner has rejected claims 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Jean et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0169884). Applicant has amended claims 25-27. Applicant submits amended claims 25-27 contain no new matter. Applicant submits amended claims 25-27 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claims 31 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Aoyagi et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0032761). Regarding claim 31, Applicant has amended claim 31. Applicant submits claim 31 contains no new matter. Applicant submits claim 31 is in condition for allowance. Regarding claim 42, Applicant submits claim 42 depends from claim 31. As Applicant submits claim 31 is in condition for allowance, Applicant submits claim 42 is also in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-16, 18-20, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jean et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0169884) in view of Aoyagi et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0032761). Applicant has amended claim 1. Applicant submits claim 1 contains no new matter. Applicant notes claims 2-16, 18-20, and 22-24 ultimately depend from claim 1. Applicant submits claims 1-16, 18-20, and 22-24 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jean et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0169884) in view of Nelson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,720). Applicant has amended claim 28. Applicant submits claim 28 contains no new matter. Applicant submits claims 28-30 ultimately depend from claim 25, which Applicant has amended. Thus, Applicant submits claims 28-30 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claims 32-35 and 37-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Aoyagi et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0032761). Applicant submits claims 32-35 and 37-41 ultimately depend from claim 31, which Applicant has amended. Thus, Applicant submits claims 32-35 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jean et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0169884) in view of Aoyagi et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0032761), and in further view of Bearden et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,917,626). Applicant submits claim 17 ultimately depends from claim 1, which Applicant has amended. Thus, Applicant submits claim 17 is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jean et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0169884) in view of Aoyagi et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0032761), and in further view of Novaes (U.S. Patent No. 6,791,981). Applicant submits claim 21 ultimately depends from claim 1, which Applicant has amended. Thus, Applicant submits claim 21 is in condition for allowance.

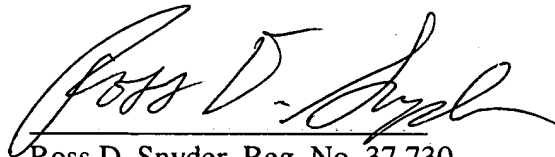
The Examiner has rejected claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Aoyagi et al. in view of Bearden et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,917,626). Applicant submits claim 36 ultimately depends from claim 31, which Applicant has amended. Thus, Applicant submits claim 36 is in condition for allowance.

In conclusion, Applicant has overcome all of the Office's rejections, and early notice of allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited. If, for any reason, the Office is unable to allow the Application on the next Office Action, and believes a telephone interview would be helpful, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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